

Clean Set of Claims

~~4. A method of allowing bypass of a ring signal in a voice messaging system, comprising:~~

~~receiving a non-ring signal indicating a presence of an incoming call to said voice messaging system; and~~

~~answering said incoming call by said voice messaging system by placing a telephone line in an off-hook condition before a reception of any ring signal.~~

~~8. Apparatus for allowing bypass of a ring signal in a voice messaging system, comprising:~~

~~means for receiving a non-ring signal indicating a presence of an incoming call to said voice messaging system; and~~

~~means for answering said incoming call by said voice messaging system by placing a telephone line in an off-hook condition before a reception of any ring signal.~~

~~12. A method of allowing a calling party to bypass a ring signal in a voice messaging system of a called party, said voice messaging system including voice message memory for recording a voice message, the method comprising:~~

~~providing a ring signal bypass module in said voice messaging system;~~

~~activating said ring signal bypass module based on a request from said calling party; and~~

~~bypassing all ring signals to said voice messaging system by answering a call from said calling party by placing a telephone line in an off-hook condition before a reception of any ring signal.~~